



St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College

'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze'

Newsletter: 30 January 2026

Faith

Faith Message

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 5:1-12), we listen to the Beatitudes, Jesus reminds us that real strength often looks different from what the world celebrates. He calls the humble, the kind, the fair, and the peacemakers blessed. These qualities might not always stand out, but they shape a community where people feel safe, respected, and valued.

In our school, we see this whenever someone chooses kindness, includes others, or stands up for what's right. These everyday choices reflect the heart of the Beatitudes more than we realise.

As we move through the term, this passage encourages us to think about how we treat one another and how we can bring a little more peace, fairness, and compassion into our day-to-day life.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Georgia Watson 902** who is the winner of this week's Headteacher's Award for her phenomenal effort. Georgia is a dedicated student and a role model. She lives our our core values and is a pleasure to teach. Georgia is our current 'Artist of the Month' and participated in the Junior Maths Challenge this week too - an all rounder! Well done, Georgia!

Tutor Group of the Week

8C1 are this week's Tutor Group of the Week - well done to all of the class!

House Awards

Columba

Student of the Week: **Evan Ellis-Jones 10C3**

Highest Credits: **Emily Milestone 9C1**

Attendance Hero: **Jokubas Kvasys 7C2**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Brody Goodricke 8H1**

Highest Credits: **Sarah Pescod 11H1**

Attendance Hero: **Thomas Dale 7H2**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Sophia Place 8O1 + Max Griffiths 11O2**

Highest Credits: **Georgia Watson 9O2**

Attendance Hero: **Lilly Pennick 10O2**





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Experto de Español

The Spanish department are thrilled to celebrate this week's Expertos de Español! Our students have shown impressive effort, growing confidence, and a brilliant attitude towards their language learning.

- Señorita Tilston- **Victoria Dyer 9C1**: Consistently high effort, contributions to lessons and a positive attitude to learning.
- Señorita García- **Alex Elliott 8C1**: Excellent attitude for learning. Always striving for the best results and amazing eagerness to participate in Spanish
- Señorita Atkinson- **Theo Bagnall 7H2**: Outstanding dedication to Spanish learning, enthusiasm in every lesson, and consistently demonstrating St Bede's core values.

Maths Wall of Legends

As always, we are delighted to unveil this week's Maths Legends - recognising those who have gone over and above in their classrooms, showing excellent effort, resilience and determination. We are especially delighted to recognise our first ever Sixth Form Maths Legend! We hope their families are as proud of them as we are - keep it up!

- Miss Houghton - **Danielle Parkin 12Ch1**
- Mr Fowler - **Chelsi Sadler-Penders 9C2**
- Mr Taylor - **William Jackson 7H1**
- Mr Teasdale - **Grace Biddiscombe 11H2**
- Dr Treanor - **Zac Darlaston 9C1**
- Mrs Keniry - **Darrell Harris 8O1**



70 Mathematicians take part in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Intermediate Challenge 2026

On Wednesday, we were so proud of 70 mathematicians in Years 9 and 10 who take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a 60 minute, multiple choice paper with 25 complex questions and problems to solve - it is completed nationally, with successful pupils being awarded Gold, Silver, Bronze and Best in School/Year certificates. This is the first time the challenge has been completed at St. Bede's since the COVID-19 pandemic and we are excited to run the Junior equivalent for Year 7 and 8 pupils in April.

Our mathematicians performed exceptionally well and we are looking forward to receiving their results in several weeks. Well done team!

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Holocaust Memorial Day

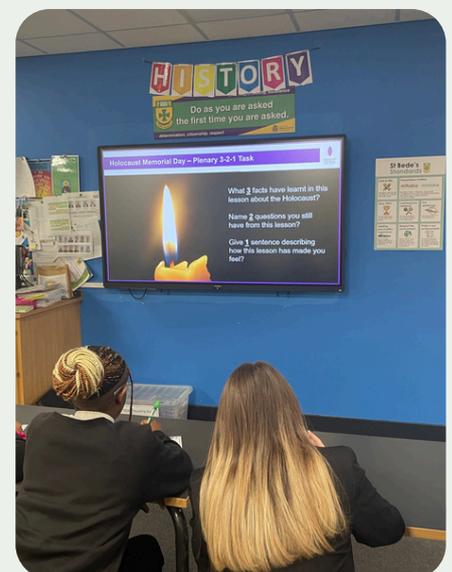
On Tuesday the History Department led a deeply meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day event for our students. The day began with students listening to the recorded testimony of a Holocaust survivor - a powerful and personal account that helped them understand the human impact of prejudice, persecution, and discrimination.

Following this, students took part in a carousel of learning activities exploring both the Holocaust and other genocides in modern history. Stations included:

- **Remembering Auschwitz** – examining the experiences of those imprisoned in the camp and reflecting on the importance of remembrance.
- **The Rwandan Genocide** – learning about the events of 1994 and the stories of survival and resilience.
- **The Cambodian Genocide** – understanding the impact of the Khmer Rouge regime and its legacy.
- **Anne Frank** – reflecting on her diary, courage, and the ongoing relevance of her message.
- **Maximilian Kolbe** – exploring the life of the priest who sacrificed himself at Auschwitz, and discussing themes of human dignity and moral courage.
- **Art and Creative Memorial Work** – students created thoughtful pieces inspired by memorials to genocide, focusing on empathy, remembrance, and hope.

Throughout the day, **students conducted themselves with exceptional respect and maturity**, engaging thoughtfully with sensitive topics and demonstrating compassion and curiosity in their discussions and work.

We are incredibly proud of the way they approached this learning experience.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Junior Park Run - Horden

Exciting news for local families!

A brand-new junior parkrun is launching at Horden Welfare Park on Sunday 25th January!

Junior parkrun is a free, weekly 2km event for children aged 4–14, helping to boost fitness, confidence, wellbeing, and a sense of community. It's open to all abilities—running, walking, or a mix of both!

- Every Sunday morning
- All abilities welcome
- Fun, active, and family-friendly

Find full details, register your child, and see volunteer opportunities here:

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/hordenwelfarepark-juniors/>

Celebrating Success: Well Done, William!

We are delighted to celebrate William Glassbrook's fantastic progress this week. William has been working incredibly hard on improving his handwriting, and the effort he has put in is clearly paying off. Over the last week alone, he has made vast improvements, demonstrating great determination and resilience. Everyone is very proud of his achievement - well done, William! Keep up the excellent work.



Revision Fest for Year 11 prepares pupils to excel!

On Thursday, we held a Revision Carousel for our Year 11 pupils and, later, we held another for parents/carers to attend. In total, six sessions were delivered, ranging from revision timetables to flashcards to well-being. Subject leaders delivered short sessions focused on how each technique can be applied to their subject area, giving pupils and parents/carers the knowledge of how to prepare for examinations.

We were incredibly impressed with how pupils focused in every session and engaged, asking fantastic questions and showing genuine interest in how they could prepare for examinations.

With February mocks imminent and three months till the final exams, we hope that Year 11 and their families feel more confident in applying the new techniques to achieve the best outcomes possible in the summer.



Key Dates

- **Monday 2 February:** Timetable Week B
- **Monday 9 February:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams Week 1
- **Monday 9 February:** Bronze and Gold Cymfed Award presentations at 2:30pm (invites will be sent out via email)
- **Thursday 12 February:** Y8 Parent's Evening
- **Monday 16 February:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams Week 2
- **Friday 20 February:** Break up for half term at 3.15pm
- **Sunday 8 March:** John Paul II Award presentations at the Hilton Hotel Newcastle (invites will be sent out via post)

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



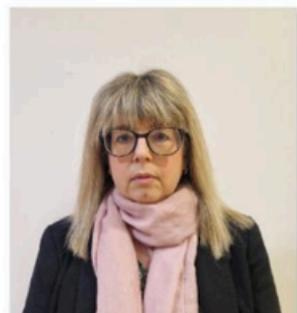
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Robinson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ord
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Home and School Links

Address: St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE

Email: enquiries@st-bedes.org

Phone: 0191 5876220

Website: www.st-bedes.org

Facebook: [StBedesandByron](https://www.facebook.com/StBedesandByron)

Our Parish: [Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden](#)
Our Diocese: [Hexham & Newcastle](#)

